

11-9-2002

Opus Cactus

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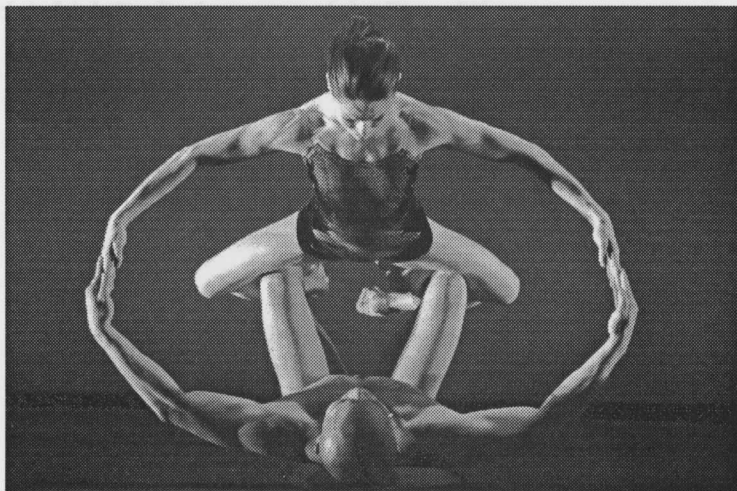
MOMIX

Presents

Opus Cactus

Saturday, November 9th, 2002

8:00 p.m.



2002/2003 Season sponsored in part by a grant from the:



in cooperation with

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OPUS CACTUS

PRESENTED BY
MOMIX
MOSES PENDLETON
Artistic Director

with

**DANIELLE ARICO, ANTHONY HEINL, MICHAEL HOLDSWORTH,
ERIC JEFFERS, PI KEOHAVONG, SUZANNE LAMPL,
NATALIE LOMONTE, KARA OCULATO,
PENNY SAUNDERS, BRIAN SIMERSON**

Lighting Design
JOSHUA STARBUCK

Costume Design
PHOEBE KATZIN

Puppet Design
MICHAEL CURRY

Sculpture Design
ALAN BOEDING

Director of Production / Associate Lighting Design
JOHN FINEN III

Technical Director
JEFFREY MAIN

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Website: www.momix.com

For Booking Information Contact:
Margaret Selby

Columbia Artists Management Inc.

165 West 57th Street, NYC, NY 10019-2276

Ph: (212) 841-9554 Fx: (212) 841-9770 E-mail: mselby@caml.com

OPUS CACTUS

PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Conceived & Directed by:

Moses Pendleton

Assisted by:

Cynthia Quinn, Kori Darling, Brian
Sanders, Craig Berman, Amphaymany
Keohavong, Nicole Loizides, Jane'l
Caropolo, Kara Oculato, Brian

Simerson,
the Ballet Arizona.

Michael Holdsworth and

Performed by:

Danielle Arico, Anthony Heinel, Michael
Holdsworth, Eric Jeffers, Pi Keohavong,
Suzanne Lampl, Natalie Lomonte, Kara
Oculato, Penny Saunders, Brian Simerson
Joshua Starbuck and Moses Pendleton
Michael Curry

Lighting Design:

Puppet Design:

Sculpture Design:

Costume Design:

Associate Lighting Design:

Alan Boeding

Phoebe Katzin

John Finen III

* Opening solo and Fire Dance choreographed by Brian Sanders

PART I

1. Sonoran: But Not Asleep
2. Desert Storm
3. Cactus Wren / Morning Star
4. Pole Dance
5. Desert Blooms
6. Ostrich of the Imagination
7. Prickly Pair
8. Black Mesa
9. Sidewinder
10. Gila Dance
11. Tracking the Earth
12. Caravan

PART II

13. Dream Catcher
14. Menitation
15. Sundance
16. Big Pole Dance
17. Totem
18. Fire Walker
19. First Contact

OPUS CACTUS is performed with one 20 minute intermission.

OPUS CACTUS SOUNDTRACK:

1. Sonoran: But Not Asleep: The Swingle Singers

"Largo" (from Harpsichord Concerto), Composer: J.S. Bach, Arranger: Ward Swingle, Recording: "Keyboard Classics", 2000 Distribution: www.swinglesingers.com

2. Desert Storm: Adam Plack, Johnny (White Ant) Soames

"Willi Willi" from Winds of Warning*

3. Cactus Wren / Morning Star: Peter Buffet

"The Dream" from Spirit Dance, Distribution: Hollywood Records

4. Pole Dance: Adam Plack, Johnny (White Ant) Soames

"The Hunt" from Winds of Warning*

5. Desert Blooms: Brian Eno

"But If" from The Drop, Published by Opal Music

6. Ostrich of the Imagination: TUU

"Migration" from Mesh, Fathom/Hearts of Space

7. Prickly Pair: TUU

"Mesh" from Mesh, Fathom/Hearts of Space

8. Black Mesa: Gabrielle Roth and the Mirrors

"Black Mesa" from Ritual, Distribution: Raven Recording

9. Sidewinder: Transglobal Underground

"Ali Mullah" from Rejoice/Rejoice, Distribution: MCA

10. Gila Dance: Brent Lewis & Peter Wood

"Outback Attack" from Thunder Down Under: Tribal Drumming and Didgeridoo

11. Tracking the Earth: Le Duc

"Touareg" from Buddah Bar, Published by PST!

12. Caravan: Jose Nieto, Hemza Al-Din

"The Lost City" from Passion in the Desert: Music from the Motion Picture Soundtrack

13. Dream Catcher: NOMAD

"Mountain Walk East" from Nomad*

14. Menitation: Mickey Hart

"Pigs in Space" from At The Edge. Distribution by Rykodisc

15. Sundance: Joanne Shenandoah & Tom Wasinger

"Prophecy Song" from Orenda - courtesy of Silver Wave Records
www.silverwave.com 1-800-SIL-WAVE

16. Big Pole Dance: Adam Plack, Johnny (White Ant) Soames

"Initiation" from Winds of Warning*

17. Totem: Gabrielle Roth and the Mirrors

"Stillness" from Tribe, Distribution: Raven Recording

18. Fire Walker: Dead Can Dance

"Mother Tongue" from The Serpent's Egg, Distribution by Warner Bros.

19. First Contact: Douglass Spotted Eagle

"First Contact" from Pray, Market. & Manuf. by Higher Octave Music

*Courtesy of Australian Music International

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Known internationally for presenting work of exceptional inventiveness and physical beauty, MOMIX is a company of dancer-illusionists under the direction of Moses Pendleton. For 20 years, MOMIX has been celebrated for its ability to conjure up a world of surrealistic images using props, light, shadow, humor and the human body.

In addition to stage performances world-wide, the company has frequently worked on special projects, in film and in television. MOMIX has made five Italian RAI television features broadcast to 55 countries (including the USSR and China) and has performed on Antenne II in France. MOMIX was also featured in PBS's "Dance in America" series. The company participated in the "Homage a Picasso" in Paris and was selected to represent the US at the European Cultural Center at Delphi. MOMIX dancers Cynthia Quinn and Karl Baumann played the role of "Bluey" in the film "FX II," under the direction of Moses Pendleton. The company is featured on a Decca Records laser disc, appearing with Charles Dutoit and the Montreal Symphony in the Rhombus Media film of Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition", winner of an International Emmy for Best Performing Arts Special. In 1992, Mr. Pendleton created "Bat Habits," developed with the support of the Scottsdale Cultural Council/Scottsdale Center for the Arts, Scottsdale Arizona and the University of Washington to celebrate the opening of the San Francisco Giants' new spring training park in Scottsdale, Arizona. This work was the forerunner of "Baseball" which was created by Mr. Pendleton in 1994. MOMIX is featured in one of the first IMAX films in 3-D, "IMAGINE," premiered at the Taejon Expo 93 and subsequently released at IMAX theaters world-wide. MOMIX has performed throughout the United States, Canada, Spain, Greece, Italy, France, Germany, Russia, Denmark, Spain, England, Austria, Ireland, Holland, Argentina, Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore and Australia. The company is based in Washington, Connecticut.

For thirty years Moses Pendleton has been one of America's most innovative and widely performed choreographers and directors. One of the founding members of the ground-break

ing Pilobolus Dance Theater in 1971, he formed his own company Momix in the early 80's and has been its artistic director since 1984. Mr. Pendleton has also worked extensively in film, TV, and opera and as a choreographer for ballet companies and special events. Mr. Pendleton was born and raised on a dairy farm in Northern Vermont, and his earliest experiences as a showman came exhibiting his family's dairy cows at the Caledonian County Fair. He received his B.A. in English Literature from Dartmouth College in 1971 and immediately began touring with Pilobolus, which had grown out of dance classes with Alison Chase at Dartmouth. The group shot to fame in the 1970's, performing on Broadway under the sponsorship of Pierre Cardin, touring internationally, and appearing in PBS's "Dance in America" and "Great Performances" series.

By the end of the decade, Mr. Pendleton had begun to work outside of Pilobolus, performing in and serving as principal choreographer for the Paris Opera's "Integrale Erik Satie" in 1979 and choreographing the Closing Ceremonies of the Winter Olympics at Lake Placid in 1980. In 1981 he created Momix, which rapidly established an international reputation for highly inventive and often illusionistic choreography. The troupe has been touring steadily and is currently performing several programs internationally. The company has made numerous special programs for Italian and French television and received the Gold Medal of the Verona Festival in 1994.

Mr. Pendleton has also been active as a performer and choreographer for other companies. He has staged Picabia's Dadaist ballet "Relache" for the Joffrey Ballet and "Tutuguri," based on the writings of Artaud, for the Deutsch Oper. He created the role of the Fool for Yuri Lyubimov's production of Mussorgsky's "Khovanschina" at La Scala and choreographed Rameau's, "Platee" for the U.S. Spoleto Festival in 1987. He contributed choreography to Lina Wertmuller's production of "Carmen" at the Munich State Opera in 1993. More recently he has choreographed new works for the Arizona Ballet and the Aspen Santa Fe Ballet. He teamed up with Danny Ezralow and David Parsons to choreograph "AEROS" with the Romanian gymnastics team.

His film and television work includes the feature film "FXII," with Cynthia Quinn, "Moses Pendleton Presents Moses Pendleton" for ABC ARTS cable, winner of a Cine Golden Eagle award, and "Pictures at an Exhibition," with Charles Dutoit and the Montreal Symphony, which received an International Emmy for Best Performing Arts Special in 1991. Mr. Pendleton has made music videos with Prince, Julian Lennon, and Cathy Dennis, among others. His 3D film "Imagine" was released in IMAX theaters worldwide in 1994.

An avid and original photographer, shows of Mr. Pendleton's work have been presented in London, Milan, Montreal, and Aspen. Images of his extensive annual sunflower plantings at his home in northwestern Connecticut have been featured in numerous books and articles on gardening. He is the subject of the book "Salto di Gravita," by Lisavetta Scarbi, published in Italy in 1999.

Mr. Pendleton was a recipient of the Connecticut Commission on the Arts Governor's Award in 1998. He received the Positano Choreographic Award in 1999 and was a Guggenheim Fellow in 1977. He is currently a nominee for an American Choreography Award for his contributions to choreography for film and television.

Danielle Arico (Dancer) began her training at the age of 7 at the Connecticut Youth Ballet with Caren DiVicino. She later trained with the Nutmeg Ballet where she danced principal and soloist roles in various ballets including Kirk Peterson's Afternoon of a Faun and Joseph Albano's Strauss Waltz. After graduating from Nutmeg's Residency Program, she danced with the Albano Ballet Company and the Richmond Ballet as a trainee. Danielle joined MOMIX in 2000.

Anthony Heintl (Dancer) graduated from the Dance Department of the Boston Conservatory in 2001. Prior to attending the conservatory, Anthony worked on a vineyard in France and played Jesus in the touring company of "Jesus Christ Superstar." He studied physics and chemistry in school. He has been dancing with MOMIX since May of 2001.

Michael Holdsworth (Dancer) began dancing while studying at the University of Connecticut. After graduating he went on to study with Chris Gibson and Sarah Franklin at the Hartford Conservatory. From there he continued his training with Nutmeg Ballet where he was first introduced to MOMIX. Michael has also performed with Tim Martins. This is his first season with MOMIX.

Eric Jeffers (Dancer) began his dance training in college at the North Carolina School of the Arts. He furthered his studies at the School of American Ballet and the Houston Ballet Academy, eventually joining the Houston Ballet in 1996. Two years later he became a member of Ballet Arizona where he had the opportunity to help create "Opus Cactus" with Moses Pendleton. Eric is originally from South Carolina where he occasionally returns to work as a white water raft guide and ropes course instructor. Eric joined MOMIX for the touring of Opus Cactus in 2001.

Suzanne Lampl (Dancer) was born in Shawnee, Oklahoma where she performed in community theater as Annie in "Annie," Kim McAfee in "Bye, Bye Birdie" and Yente in "Fiddler on the Roof." From there, she went on to study modern dance at the North Carolina School of the Arts, the London Contemporary School of Dance and S.U.N.Y. Purchase where she performed works by Richard Gain and Kevin Wynn. In New York, she has performed and choreographed for the Next Stage Company. During her three seasons with MOMIX, she has performed in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Israel and the Canary Islands. She has also appeared on TV in Europe as a member of MOMIX. She would like to thank Stephan for his patience, love and inspiration and her Mom for her continuous support and encouragement.

Pi Keohavong (Dancer) a native of Laos, received his dance training at the University of Southwestern Louisiana, American Dance Festival, and the Erick Hawkins school of Dance. After college, he moved to New York City and performed for two seasons with the Erick Hawkins Dance Company. Pi joined MOMIX in 1997.

Natalie Lomonte (Dancer), originally from Houston, TX, moved to NY in 1999 to attend Marymount Manhattan College, where she has been studying as a BFA dance major for the past three years. She is a member of the Marymount Manhattan Dance Company and most recently performed in the U.S. and Scotland with GO, under the direction of Ashlie Soloman. Natalie would like to thank her family and friends and say she loves them as she makes her professional company debut this season with MOMIX.

Kara Oculato (Dancer) was born in New Paltz, New York, and attended the Professional Children's School and the School of American Ballet. In 1992 she was awarded the top level prize in Ballet by the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts. The same year she was awarded a gold medal as Presidential Scholar in the Arts by President George Bush, and was invited to perform at the Kennedy Center. She joined American Ballet Theater in 1992, performing at the Met and touring with them to Japan, Greece, Denmark and Argentina. She then joined Pennsylvania Ballet, where she performed principal roles in ballets by Balanchine, Alvin Ailey, Paul Taylor, Jacques d'Amboise, Robert Weiss, David Parsons and John Cranko's Romeo & Juliet. In 1995, Ms. Oculato was chosen by People Magazine as one of their 50 most beautiful people in the world. In 1998 she joined the Hartford Ballet, and performed principal roles in Martha Graham's Diversion of Angels, Peggy Lyman's Interior Landscapes, Le Corsaire Pas de Deux, Timothy Melady's Unraveling Gypsy, The American Nutcracker's Sugar Plum Fairy, and Jean Grand-Maitre's Romeo and Juliet. Kara has also studied privately with Hilda Morales, Gelsey Kirkland and Dame Margot Fonteyn.

Penny Saunders (Dancer) is originally from Florida where she began her formal training at The Harid Conservatory in Boca Raton. After graduating in 1995 from Harid, she began dancing professionally with The American Repertory Ballet under the direction of Septime Webre. After four seasons with ARB, she left to join Ballet Arizona in 1999. It was there, in the desert, that she was first exposed to the work of Moses Pendleton. In

2001, Penny joined MOMIX to perform that work.

Brian Simerson (Dancer), a native of Virginia Beach, VA has been with MOMIX since 1994. Under the direction of Deborah Thorpe, he graduated from the Governor's School for the Arts, Norfolk, VA in 1990. During this time he was awarded by the National Arts and Talent Recognition Foundation, and also placed first in the Virginia Fine Arts Award program. Brian continued his studies at New York University's Tisch School for the Arts, graduating with a BFA in dance, choreography and music. From 1992-1994, Brian was a principal member of the Erick Hawkins Dance Company. He has also worked with Stephen Petronio, Bill T Jones, Kevin Wynn, and in 1996 was featured in a duet choreographed by Graeme Murphy of the Sydney Dance Company for the Inaugural Brisbane Festival in Australia. While dancing with MOMIX, Brian has traveled around the world to Europe, Israel, Moscow, South America, Japan and Australia. Since 1995, Brian has been on the faculty of The Nutmeg Ballet Company, Torrington, CT. Here he has choreographed numerous works including "RAGA" which was most recently performed at the First Connecticut Dance Festival 2000. He has been chosen as Choreographer-In-Residence for Nutmeg Ballet's 2000-2001 season. Other choreographic commissions include Skidmore College, Northwestern University, NYU/Tisch School for the Arts, New York Ballet Competition, and Governor's School for the Arts, Norfolk, VA, and the Shakespeare Festival 2000 Westminster School, Simsbury, CT. In addition to his dance credits, Brian is a composer, with commissions from Bucknell University, Northwestern University, NYU/Tisch, Governor's School for the Arts, Nutmeg Ballet, Hartford Ballet, Maximum Dance/Miami, DTW, Manuel Betanzos/Sevilla, Spain, Monica Morra/Torino, Italy and MOMIX. In 2000, Brian released his first CD, "ZIMMERISM". Brian is honored to be the recipient of a fellowship from The Connecticut Commission on the Arts 2001 and to have his choreography presented by the Ballet Builders/NYC showcase in March 2001. [Www.briansimerson.com](http://www.briansimerson.com)

Alan Boeding (Sculpture Design) a native of Chamberlain, South Dakota, received his BFA in Sculpture from the University of South Dakota in 1980 and his MFA from Indiana University in 1983. Alan began dancing with the Windfall Modern Dance Company in 1981. Since then he has performed with Ruby Shang and Dancers at the American Dance Festival; Dancers Unlimited in Dallas, Texas; and with Daniel Ezralow's Conspiracies and Collaborations at Dance Theater Workshop in New York. A highlight in Alan's career was a solo performance in the Rome Colosseum, in *The Night of Music*, Italy Rada Film by Andrea Andermann, in 1987. He has performed as a guest artist for the Amnesty International Gala at the Joyce Theater in New York 1988, and *Serata di Gala* at the Teatro Olimpico in Rome in 1989. Also that year he collaborated with Lincoln Nebraska's 240 member marching band in the homecoming half-time performance at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln, Nebraska. In July 1990, Alan performed in a three city International Etoiles Gala in Japan. He has recently formed his own sculpture/dance company and is creating new sculpture and choreography. Alan received a "work space" grant from the 92nd Street Y in New York City to continue his work. He has been working with MOMIX since 1984.

Michael Curry (Puppet Design) has collaborated with Julie Taymor on many stage and opera productions. On Broadway, he has worked on numerous shows including *Crazy For You* and *Kiss of the Spider Woman*. He has been awarded the 1998 Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Puppet Design for *The Lion King*, several Emmys and the 1999 Eddy Award for Outstanding Contribution in the Technical and Design Field. Michael is one of the country's leading production design consultants and works widely in both conceptual and technical development for some of the world's foremost entertainment companies. He owns and operates Michael Curry Design, Inc. in St. Helens, OR, which produces large, live-performance

oriented production designs, such as those seen at the 1996 Olympic Opening Ceremonies, Superbowl 2000 and New York City's Times Square 2000 Millennium event.

Phoebe Katzin (Costume Designer) has been designing and constructing dresses and costumes for over twenty years. After graduating from Endicott College's fashion design program, she worked for Kitty Daly building dance costumes and dressmaking. For several years she lived in New York making costumes for Kitty Leach, Greg Barnes, and Allison Conner, among others. For the past few years, she has been working for MOMIX and Pilobolus. Ms. Katzin lives in Connecticut with her three children and her husband, James.

John H Finen III (Director of Production) Other projects have included: Production Manager for TAP DOGS 1998 US Tour, Production Stage Manager for *Jam on the Groove*, tour of Europe and Japan, Assistant Lighting Supervisor for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and Assistant Lighting Designer for *Jekyll and Hyde* on Broadway. Prior to rejoining MOMIX in 2002, John worked for the New York City Opera at Lincoln Center as a Stage Manager. John is excited to be returning to the surreal world of MOMIX.

Joshua Starbuck (Lighting Designer), collaborated with Moses Pendleton on his world premiere of "Opus Cactus" for Ballet Arizona last Spring. He has designed numerous productions and tours for Ballet Arizona. He has toured five continents with many of his designs for dance, ice skating, opera, industrials, concerts and theater. He has designed for Arena Stage, Playwrights Horizons, The Manhattan Theater Club, The Public Theater, Coconut Grove Playhouse, Walnut Street Theater, Williamstown Theater Festival and others. He has also worked with the Kirov Ballet, The Royal Ballet, The Spanish National Ballet and the English National Ballet.

MOMIX STAFF

General Manager
Office Manager
Ballet Mistress
Ballet Master

JOHN FINEN III
DAWN LeFEVER
JOAN KUNSCH
ALEXI TCHERNICHOV